

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The claims submitted 11/20/2007 have been entered and the terminal disclaimer has been approved.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sean Senn on May 15th, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease in a human individual comprising determining the presence or absence in said individual of the 2-2-4 haplotype at the Notch4, HSP70-HOM and D6S273 loci, wherein the presence of said 2-2-4 haplotype is diagnostic or predictive of susceptibility to said Crohn's disease.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are drawn to diagnosing or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease in a human individual by detecting the presence of the 2-2-4 haplotype at the Notch4, HSP70-HOM and D6S273 loci. The claims are allowable over the prior art because the prior art does not teach or suggest diagnosing or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease in a human individual by detecting the presence of the 2-2-4 haplotype at the Notch4, HSP70-HOM and D6S273 loci. The specification teaches a study in an Ashkenazi Jewish population which found a statistically significant association

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between the presence of the 2-2-4 haplotype and Crohn's disease. Upon review of the prior art and post filing date art, no evidence was found in either the prior art or the post filing date art that undue experimentation would be required to practice the method of diagnosing or predicting susceptibility to Crohn's disease by detecting the presence of the 2-2-4 haplotype at the Notch4, HSP70-HOM and D6S273 loci in any human individual.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Jehanne Sittou whose telephone number is (571) 272-0752. The examiner can normally be reached Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla, can be reached on (571) 272-0735. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

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/Jehanne Sitton/
Primary Examiner
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